



GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. Since 1947 and The Iron Brigade Association

☆☆

General Orders No. 04-03

March, 2004

The **March 11th, 2004** meeting is to be held at **Wisconsin Club**, Milwaukee

Speaker: Thomas F. Schwartz, Illinois State Historian

Thomas F. Schwartz: “Crazy folks...Why I must only take my chances” — Death Threats to Lincoln

Our March speaker, Thomas F. Schwartz, is a native of Illinois having spent his youth in Downers Grove. He attended the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign where he received the A.B., A.M. and Ph.D. in history. He became curator of the Henry Horner Lincoln Collection at the Illinois State Historical Library in 1985 and is an ac-



knowledgeable authority on the Sixteenth President and his times. Schwartz is author of over sixty articles, reviews, chapters, and electronic reference entries and editor of *"For a Vast Future Also : " Essays From the Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association* (Fordham University Press, 1999). On November 19, 1993, Governor Jim Edgar named Schwartz to fill the post of State Historian, making him, at 38, the youngest person to serve in that position.

With John Rhodehamel of the Henry Huntington Library, Schwartz co-curated the nationally acclaimed exhibition, *"The Last Best Hope of Earth : " Abraham Lincoln and the Promise of America* featuring materials from the Henry Horner Lincoln Collection, the Huntington, and the Louise and Barry Taper Collection. This exhibition attracted over 600,000 visitors in a two-city tour of Los Angeles and Chicago. He served as a historical consultant for numerous documentaries and has appeared on the *Today Show*. He is senior editor of the prestigious *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association*, advisor to the *Journal of Illinois History* and serves on a number of boards and commissions dealing with history, education, and culture. He is responsible for the historical content in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and is director of the Research Division in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

Schedule of Events

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| • Staff Meeting (open to all members) | 5:30 PM |
| • Registration and Social Hour | 6:15 PM |
| • Dinner | 6:45 PM |
| • Program Begins | 7:30 PM |

1st Brigade Band at the Elmbrook Historical Society 28 March

Wisconsin's 1st Brigade Band will present a concert at 2 PM at the Sharon Wilson Center for the Arts, Mitchell Park, 19805 West Capitol Drive in Brookfield. General admission tickets are \$15 a person. For more information, visit their web site at www.elmbrookhistoricalsociety.org, or call Mary Jane Erdmann at (262) 781-6385.

The 1st Brigade Band is an affiliate of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and is supported and sponsored by Heritage Military Music Foundation, Inc., a non-profit, educational, historical, and patriotic organization. For more information on the 1st Brigade Band:

- See www.1stbrigadeband.org;
- Write Heritage Hall, 504 S. Fourth Street, Watertown, WI 53094;
- e-mail cwband@1stbrigadeband.org;
- Call (920) 262-1864.

Third Annual "Reclaiming Our Heritage" Event 5-6 June

The multi-era military encampment and living history event will be held at the VA Medical Center, 5000 W. National Avenue Milwaukee, on June 5 and 6, 2004. The program includes special military field medical displays, historic presentations, concerts, tours of Soldiers Home historic buildings and grounds, Wood National Cemetery tours, children's activities, and veterans information booths.

The event, sponsored by the Soldiers Home Foundation, is to raise community awareness of the contributions of our nation's veterans and the value of the historic district that once served them. All donations and event proceeds will be used to fund the restoration of buildings in the Soldiers Home Historic District (1868-1891). This is a free admission family event, but donations toward event costs or building restoration gratefully accepted. For more information, contact the Soldiers Home Foundation, PO Box 139 Milwaukee, WI 53295, (414) 389-4135 www.soldiershome.org. Interested re-enactors and sutlers should contact Laura Rinaldi at (414) 389-4135.

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. admits members of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges and activities of the Round Table.

Copyright © 2004 by the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. Permission is granted for use of the contents, in whole or in part, in not-for-profit Civil War Round Table newsletters only. All other rights are reserved.

Board of Directors, Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc., as of Sep., 2003

Name	Office	Contact	Term Expires
Dale Brasser	President	(920) 682-5478	2006
Gene Jamroz	1st Vice President/Quartermaster	(414) 327-2811	2005
Ellen Kelling-Vukovic	2nd Vice President	(262) 334-6265	2006
Paul Eilbes	Treasurer/Membership Committee Chair	(262) 376-0568; paul.eilbes@ipaper.com	2004
C. Judley Wyant	Secretary	(262)634-1203; jwyant@wyantlaw.com	2006
John D. Beatty	Editor/Publisher, <i>General Orders</i>	jdbeatty@amcivwar.com	2004
Robert Braun	Past President	(920) 568-4530	2005
Robert Erffmeyer	Past President	(414) 354-7800	2005
Lance Herdeggen	Past President	(262) 524-7198	2006
Dr. Peter Jacobsohn	Past President	(262) 242-0931	2004
Bob Parrish	Past President	(262) 786-2945	2004
Bill Upham	Past President	(414) 962-6440	2005
Jack Thompson	Past President	(414) 332-2065	2005

Preludes to Shiloh: The Confederacy's Crisis, Part I

By early 1862 Confederate fortunes had plummeted much faster than Union fortunes had risen. The Confederate forces were everywhere receding, despite their showy and morale-boosting but strategically meaningless victory at Manassas that had not been exploited. At the same time, Federal forces, using their superior strategic mobility, were appearing as if from nowhere on all fronts, but without any decisive action anywhere. Virginia and Tennessee, the apparent seats of the conflict, were full of marching and camping troops from both sides.

President Davis of the secessionist states, a former Secretary of the Army and West Point graduate, accepted advice from few and acted on less. Governors of all the states in his nascent country were clamoring for arms, munitions, men, ships, supplies, and salvation from threats real and imagined. From Tennessee to Florida, from Virginia to Texas the Yankee army and navy seemed to be everywhere, and each governor was certain that their state would be invaded next.

But even though Davis knew that his resources were stretched so thin in places as to be non-existent, he resisted the temptation to write off everything west of the Mississippi after the disaster at Pea Ridge in March. If he had he knew that Missouri would never officially secede and join the Confederacy, and Kentucky would be permanently lost. But of all the battles in the western theatre so far, none had even held a candle to the scale of the Confederacy's apparent success at Manassas.

But it was practically a given that the Southern soldier was superior to his northern counterpart simply because of his rural origins and the superiority of his

cause. Even though the percentage of deaths from disease in the first winter of the war was worse in the South than the North this did not seem to matter: Their commanders were said to be more universally loved and skilled, and the marksmanship and fighting spirit of the men in the ranks was said to be higher than the hated Yankees.

But the Confederacy was surrounded not only by hostile or at least unsympathetic states, but was also surrounded, like an island, by water, and had no navy with which to defend her long seaward frontiers or her many rivers highways. But still she gamely put forth to sea and river with what she could. But her main advantage was known to be on land, and if not in numbers, in martial ardor.

No area of the South was more vulnerable than the Western Theatre, especially the area between the Tennessee River and the Cumberland, sometimes referred to as Middle Tennessee. The stunning achievements of Porter and Grant in northern Tennessee cost the Confederacy far more than the Union gained. For although most of the Rebel troops were paroled from the captures the equipment and supplies were lost forever and difficult to replace. Furthermore, the Confederate's displacement out of Nashville and Columbus, KY cost them space they could ill afford, as well as considerable manufacturing capacity and railroad track mileage. The Union's occupation of Nashville was a boon to them, and the factories a bonus: To the Confederates their loss was a disaster of epic proportions.

Author's Note: Any comments on this feature would be greatly appreciated —JDB.

2004 Schedule

All meetings are at the Wisconsin Club unless otherwise noted. *Speakers and topics are subject to change without notice.*

- April 15: James Ogden, subject to be announced.

Election of Board Members.

- May 6: Bruce Tap, "Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War." Period costumes invited.
- June 10 (CARROLL COLLEGE): Brent Nosworthy, topic to be announced.

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for: March 11th, 2004

Mail your reservations by March 5th to:

Paul Eilbes, 1809 Washington Ave. Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

ALSO, call in reservations to (262) 376-0568

Enclosed is \$_____ (meal price \$20 per person) for _____ reservations for the next meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee. (Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)

Name of Member: _____

Meet the New Members

GEORGE AND JUDY MARANGER,
Racine, Wi. Interest, General

DANIEL AND MARY TANTY, Wau-
watosa, Wi. Interest, Lincoln



Volunteers Encouraged

Any member who wants to help out at the meetings or at other times is encouraged to contact the Board. Members are needed in the Membership, House, Program and *General Orders* Committees. Just contact any one of the Members of the Board.

In the Event of Inclement Weather...

Since we live in a part of the Union that has such wonderful weather, the President will decide if there is to be any change in a meeting due to winter storms. Listen to WTMJ or WISN radio for news of meeting cancellations if the weather turns on us.

GO Submissions and Editorial Policy

All submissions to the *GO* are used on a space-available, date-required basis. Electronic submissions are preferred over paper. The Editor/Publisher reserves the right to edit all submissions for length, propriety, content, and house style.

Submissions with a direct Civil War interest, or those that are date-sensitive, will be published first.

All submissions must be received by the Editor/Publisher at jdbeatty@amcivwar.com no later than the 10th of the month before the next *GO* (for example, submissions for the January *GO* must be received by 10 December). All address changes, or problems receiving the *GO*, are handled through the Membership Chairman, Paul Eilbes.

A Gentle Reminder

The Wisconsin Club and the Board of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee would like to remind our members that jackets are required for the dining room. Please contact club management if you have any questions.